

**United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Examiner: Washburn, D.

Art Unit: 2863

Docket No: 3151

In re:

Applicant: KIRSCHNER, M., et al

Serial No.: 10/517,700

Filed: December 13, 2004

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

January 23, 2007

Hon. Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sirs:

In conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination filed in this case and responsive to the final Office Action of September 28, 2006, please amend the application as follows: